

or both meetings and assist the staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions at the meetings, a scoping document outlining subject areas to be addressed in the EA will be mailed to agencies and interested individuals on the FERC mailing list. Copies of the scoping document will also be available at the scoping meetings.

#### Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the FERC staff will: (1) Identify preliminary environmental issues related to the proposed project; (2) identify preliminary resource issues that are not important and do not require detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to the proposal; (4) solicit from meeting participants all available information, especially quantified data, on the resource issues; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including points of view in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views.

#### Procedures

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter and all statements, both oral and written, will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceedings on the Therm II Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to clearly identify themselves for the record.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EA.

Persons choosing not to speak at the meetings, but who have views on the issues or information relevant to the issues, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record at the meetings. In addition, written scoping comments (an original and eight copies) may be filed with Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 1st Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, until December 16, 1996.

All written correspondence should clearly show the following caption on the first page: Therm II Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 11565-000.

Intervenors—those on the Commission's service list for this proceeding (parties)—are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, requiring parties filing documents with the Commission, to serve a copy of the document on each

person whose name appears on the official service list. Further, if a party files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

#### Site Visit

A site visit to the Therm II Hydroelectric Project is planned for Tuesday, November 12, 1996. Those who wish to attend should plan to meet at 9:00 AM at the Joint Water District, 735 Virginia Street, Gridley, California. For more details, contact Mr. Stan Malinky, Thermalito Power Corporation, at (916) 372-0534.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Gaylord W. Hoisington, FERC Environmental Coordination, at (202) 210-2756.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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#### Notice of New Docket Prefix

October 18, 1996.

Notice is hereby given that a new docket prefix has been established for petitions for declaratory order requesting a Commission determination on stranded costs.

Under the stranded cost procedures set forth in Order No. 888, Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Nondiscriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities, and Recovery of Stranded Costs by Public Utilities and Transmitting Utilities, 61 FR 21540 (May 10, 1996), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,036 at 31,844 (1996), *reh'g pending*, a customer may file a petition for declaratory order:

to seek a Commission determination as to whether: (i) the utility has met the reasonable expectation standard; (ii) the proposed stranded cost charge satisfies the other evidentiary standards set forth in this Rule; (iii) the amount of released capacity and the amount of associated energy proposed by the utility is reasonable; or (iv) the utility's proposal for any contract amendment needed to implement the customer's payment of stranded costs is reasonable.

In order to properly docket and manage this type of case and assess Commission resources applicable to this type of work, it is necessary to establish a new docket prefix for stranded cost declaratory order petitions. The new docket prefix will be SCFY-NN-NNN, where the FY stands for the fiscal year in which the filing was made and the NN and NNN are sequential numbers.

For example, the first stranded cost declaratory order petition made this fiscal year will be assigned SC97-1-000, the second will be SC97-2-000, etc.

The establishment of the new docket will apply only to stranded cost determinations sought in declaratory order proceedings. If stranded cost determinations are sought in Section 205 rate filings or in Section 206 complaints to amend existing contracts, they will be given their normal ER and EL docket designations.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5639-8]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals, EPA ICR No. 1038.09; OMB Control No. 2030-0007; expiration date 3/31/97. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before December 23, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Acquisition Management (3802F), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20460, Attention: Edward N. Chambers.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Edward N. Chambers. (202) 260-6028/ FAX: (202) 260-1203/CHAMBERS. EDWARD@A1@MAIL.EPA.GOV

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are EPA contractors.

**Title:** Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals (OMB Control No. 2030-0007; EPA ICR No. 1038.09) expiring 3/31/97.

**Abstract:** Firms which are interested in providing supplies or services to EPA will furnish information on previous